

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03249 011709Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----011711Z 012724 /47

O 011618Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9486

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3249

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.) PFOR BE
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PARIS SCHEDULE

REF: (A) SECTO 03079, (B) BRUSSELS 3222

1. VAN ELSLANDE IS PLEASED THAT THE SECRETARY WILL MEET WITH HIM. VAN ELSLANDE WILL APPEAR AT THE U.S. EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN PARIS AT 1:00 PM, APRIL 2, ACCOMPANIED BY CHEF DE CABINET VAN BELLINGHEN AND PROBABLY DIRECTOR GENERAL VANDEN BLOOCK. VAN ELSLANDE WANTS TO AVOID PUBLICITY.

2. I AM PREPARED, OF COURSE, TO COME TO PARIS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN TERMS OF FOLLOW UP. PLEASE ADVISE THIS EVENING.

3. VANDEN BLOOCK TELLS ME THAT HE EXPECTS VAN ELSLANDE TO COVER THE FOLLOWING GROUND WHEN HE TALKS TO THE SECRETARY:

A. BELGIUM IS PUZZLED BY THE DISPARITY BETWEEN WHAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO DO TO AID MOBUTU AND WHAT THE U.S. APPEARS TO WANT BELGIUM TO DO. WHEN I PRESSED VANDEN BLOOCK TO
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BE PRECISE, HE REPLIED THAT BELGIUM WANTED TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. BUT WAS UNWILLING TO GET OUT IN FRONT.

B. THE POLITICAL LIMITS ON WHAT BELGIUM CAN DO TO ASSIST MOBUTU ARE TIGHT. MOBUTU IS NOT POPULAR IN BELGIUM. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO COME UNDER HEAVY

DOMESTIC POLITICAL FIRE FOR STEPPING UP MILITARY AID TO
MOBUTU THAN FOR STANDING BY AND WATCHING HIM FALL.

C. WHEN PRESSED TO BE CONCRETE ABOUT HOW FAR THE
BELGIANS WOULD GO TO HELP MOBUTU, VANDEN BLOOCK CONFIRMED
THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WOULD DECIDE TO
PERMIT LIGHT ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO BE SOLD TO ZAIRE
IF THIS APPEARED ESSENTIAL. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD DO IF AN EFFORT WERE MADE BY SOME
FOREIGN ENTITY TO RECRUIT MERCENARIES HERE.
VANDEN BLOOCK SAID THAT SUCH RECRUITMENT WOULD NOT BE
AGAINST BELGIAN LAW. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT PREDICT
WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK THE OTHER WAY OR
TRY TO DISCOURAGE RECRUITMENT.

D. THE BELGIANS EXPECT KOLWEZI TO FALL. IN THIS
EXPECTATION, VAN ELSLANDE MAY WELL ASK THE SECRETARY
WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE TO THINK ABOUT
WHO MIGHT REPLACE MOBUTU AND WHAT POLICIES HE SHOULD
FOLLOW TOWARD THE KATANGAN OCCUPATION OF SHABA.
VANDEN BLOOCK WOULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN FURTHER. RENNER

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